

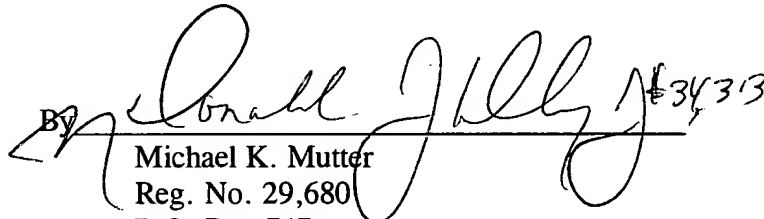
In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Matthew J. Lattig (Reg. No. 45,274) at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss this application.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants hereby petition for an extension of three (3) month from July 1, 1999 to January 3, 2000 (Monday) in which to file a response to the outstanding Office Action. The required fee of \$870.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  11/30/99  
Michael K. Mutter  
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MKM/MJL/ll/sje

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were rejected supra. Note that pp. 10 on page 12 of the Office Action only lists claims 23-25.